

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AS-01 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 SCS-05 SCA-01 AF-10 ARA-14

EUR-12 DHA-02 H-02 L-03 AID-05 /126 W

-----162252Z 090874 /72

R 161029Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3300

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

AMCONSUL UDORN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, CASC, TH

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SUBJECT: CHIANG MAI POLICE CRACK DOWN ON TOURISTS USING NARCOTICS

EMBASSY IS REPEATING FOLLOWING CHIANG MAI CABLE TO ADDRESSEES FOR  
APPROPRIATE POSTING OR DISSEMINATION TO AMERICAN TRAVELERS  
WHO MAY HAVE THAILAND ON THEIR ITINERARY. WE BELIEVE THAT  
THIS APPLIES PARTICULARLY TO THOSE ON THE SOUTH ASIA,  
SOUTHEAST ASIA "YOUTH CIRCUIT:"

1. SUMMARY. CHIANG MAI POLICE HAVE LAUNCHED A NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION CAMPAIGN AIMED AT TOURISTS EXPERIMENTING WITH OR USING A VARIETY OF NARCOTICS EASILY AVAILABLE IN THIS AREA. LOW BUDGET GUEST HOUSES ARE BEING RAIDED ON A REGULAR BASIS. SEVERAL ARRESTS FOR POSSESSION OF A VARIETY OF NARCOTICS INCLUDING BOTH OPIUM AND HEROIN HAVE BEEN MADE. ONE AMERICAN CITIZEN HAS BEEN ARRESTED IN THE CAMPAIGN, CHARGED WITH THE POSSESSION OF BOTH MARIHUANA AND OPIUM. DESPITE THE CONSULAR PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ARREST OF ANY AMERICAN ABROAD, WE WELCOME THIS CAMPAIGN IN THE HOPES IT WILL REVERSE CHIANG MAI'S GROWING POPULARITY AMONG "WORLD TRAVELERS" AS A PLACE TO MAKE AN EASY SCORE. END SUMMARY.

2. CHIANG MAI NARCOTICS AND PROVINCIAL POLICE ARE CARRYING OUT A SERIES OF RAIDS ON LOW BUDGET GUEST HOUSES IN THE CHIANG MAI AREA IN A SEARCH FOR FOREIGN TOURISTS WITH NARCOTICS IN THEIR POSSESSION. THE LATEST SUCH RAID OCCURRED YESTERDAY WHEN TWO GUEST HOUSES WERE SEARCHED. AS THE RESULT, FIVE PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED INCLUDING ONE AMERICAN CITIZEN, A GIRL TWENTY-TWO YEARS OLD. MOST OF THOSE ARRESTED IN SUCH RAIDS HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH MARIHUANA OFFENSES. HOWEVER ONE BRITISH SUBJECT IS FACING SIX MONTHS FOR THE POSSESSION OF HEROIN AND AT LEAST THREE OF THOSE ARRESTED YESTERDAY, INCLUDING THE AMERICAN, ARE BEING CHARGED WITH THE POSSESSION OF OPIUM. BOTH OPIUM AND HEROIN ARE PUNISHABLE BY SENTENCES RANGING FROM SIX MONTHS UP TO TEN YEARS.

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3. DEA AGENTS IN CHIANG MAI HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND ADVISED ON THE RAIDS AND THE ARRESTS. IN THE CASE OF THE AMERICAN, IMMEDIATE CONSULAR ACCESS WAS GRANTED AND THE CONSUL WAS AWARE OF THE POSSIBLE ARREST EVEN BEFORE IT OCCURRED. IN MOST INSTANCES TO DATE TREATMENT BY POLICE HAS BEEN FAIR AND, GIVEN THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE OFFENSE, RELATIVELY LENIENT. HOWEVER IN ONE WELL PUBLICIZED INCIDENT, THAT OF A CANADIAN GIRL, TWO POLICE ARRESTING OFFICERS TRIED TO SHAKE THE GIRL DOWN WITH PROMISES OF IMMEDIATE RELEASE. PUBLICITY ABOUT THE CASE, BOTH ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE ARRESTING OFFICERS AND CHARGES OF LENIENCY BECAUSE OF HER SUDDEN RELEASE HAVE CREATED A SITUATION WHERE EVERY POLICE OFFICER INVOLVED IN SUCH ARRESTS IS TAKING METICULOUS CARE TO ENSURE HE CANNOT BE ACCUSED OF ILLEGAL OR UNFAIR TREATMENT. AS A RESULT ANYBODY ARRESTED IN POSSESSION OF HEORIN OR OTHER HARD NARCOTICS, EVEN IN SMALL AMOUNTS, CAN EXPECT TO SEE THE CASE TAKEN TO COURT AND PROSECUTED.

4. WE FRANKLY WELCOME THIS CAMPAIGN, ESPECIALLY AS PRISONERS ARE BEING TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS WITH IMMEDIATE CONSULAR ACCESS TO THOSE WHO ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS. FOR SOME TIME NOW WE HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WITH THE GROWING REPUTATION OF CHIANG MAI AND THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONS AMONG THE LOW BUDGET WORLD TRAVELERS AS A PLACE TO MAKE AN EASY SCORE. ENTERPRISING BUSINESSMEN IN THE AREA ARE OFFERING "JUNGLE TOURS" WHICH USUALLY INCLUDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE A LITTLE OPIUM WITH THE HILLTRIBER VILLAGES VISITED DURING THE COURSE OF THE TOUR. AN ESPECIALLY POPULAR SPOT FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES IS THE NORTHERN MOST DISTRICT OF MAE AI IN CHIANG MAI PROVINCE. LOCAL OFFICIALS IN THE AREA REPORT THAT AS MANY AS THIRTY TO FORTY EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN TOURISTS ARE VISITING THE AREA IN A SINGLE DAY. ALMOST ALL MAKE LOCAL MARIHUANA PURCHASES AND MANY EXPERIMENT IN OPIUM. A FEW ALSO MAKE PURCHASES OF THE EASITY AVAILABLE AND VERY CHEAP HEROIN. GENERAL PRACTICE  
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APPEARS TO BE TO SMOKE OPIUM IN THE VILLAGES AND THEN TO MAKE SMALL PURCHASES IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO EXPERIMENT WITH THE PRODUCT ON A RETURN TO CHIANG MAI WHERE THE EXPERIMENTERS STAY IN THE IN-EXPENSIVE GUEST HOUSES SPRINKLED AROUND THE CITY.  
WHITEHOUSE

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AMCONSUL SONGKHLA  
AMCONSUL SURABAYA  
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5. TO DATE THERE HAVE BEEN AT LEAST TWO DEATHS DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF DRUGS BY LOW BUDGET TRAVELERS. ONE, AN AUSTRALIAN, WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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LIAN DIED OF AN OVERDOSE OF OPIUM WHILE ON ONE OF THE JUNGLE TOURS. THE SECOND, A YOUNG AMERICAN, DIED AS RESULT OF AN OVERDOSE OF TRANQUILIZERS IN ONE OF THE GUEST HOUSES. LOCAL GOSSIP AROUND TOWN ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE MISSING NEW ZEALANDER, WHOSE FATHER'S SEARCH WON CONSIDERABLE PRESS PUBLICITY, MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF ONE OF THESE NARCOTICS JUNGLE TOURS.

6. IT WAS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF THE AMERICAN AND THE INVESTIGATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HIS DEATH THAT THE POLICE DECIDED TO LAUNCH THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN. WE ARE INFORMED THAT THEY INTEND TO CONTINUE REGULAR RAIDS ON SEVERAL LOW BUDGET GUEST HOUSES AND HOTELS IN WHICH THE GUESTS ARE OFTEN KNOWN TO USE NARCOTICS. OWNERS OF SUCH HOTELS ARE ALSO BEING ADVISED BY POLICE AUTHORITIES THAT THEY FACE REGULAR RAIDS AND ARE BEING COUNSELED THAT IT WILL BE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE TO IMMEDIATELY REPORT INSTANCES IN WHICH THEY KNOW OF GUESTS USING NARCOTICS ON THE PREMISES.

7. WE HOPE THAT THE TRAVELERS' GRAPEVINE QUICKLY SPREADS THE WORD THAT CHIANG MAI IS NO LONGER THE DRUG USERS' PARADISE THAT IT HAS BEEN ADVERTISED AS BEING. WHILE THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN WILL MEAN ADDITIONAL WORK FOR THE CONSUL IN TERMS OF ASSISTING THOSE AMERICANS ARRESTED IN THE ROUNDUPS, WE EXPECT THE LONG TERM RESULT IS GOING TO BE BENEFICIAL, EVEN PERHAPS PREVENTING A DEATH OR TWO, AS AMERICANS, OFTEN UNFAMILIAR WITH THE STRENGTH

OF THE NARCOTICS AVAILABLE IN THE AREA, CAN EASILY MISJUDGE THE  
SIZE OF THE DOSE NEEDED TO PRODUCE THE EUPHORIA WITHOUT FATAL  
RESULTS. TANNER.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** SNAR, CASC, TH  
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